

Grade 8 Sample Test Prompt

Organization

People run for elected offices, from the President of the United States to class officers in a school. You are running for class president for your grade level.

Write an essay convincing your classmates that you are the best choice for president.

Your writing should:

- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- State reasons why you would make a good class president.
- Include details that support your reasons.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

ORGANIZATION

<p>6</p> <p>The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective, perhaps creative, sequencing; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • a strong, inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a strong satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, and ideas). • details that fit where placed. 	<p>5</p> <p>The organization enhances the central idea(s) and its development. The order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text. The writing is characterized by.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective sequencing; the organizational structure fits the topic, and the writing is easy to follow. • an inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a satisfying sense of resolution or closure. • smooth, effective transitions among all elements (sentences, paragraphs, and ideas). • details that fit where placed. 	<p>4</p> <p>Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present, but may seem formulaic. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear sequencing. • an organization that may be predictable. • a recognizable, developed beginning that may not be particularly inviting; a developed conclusion that may lack subtlety. • a body that is easy to follow with details that fit where placed. • transitions that may be stilted or formulaic. • organization which helps the reader, despite some weaknesses.
<p>3</p> <p>An attempt has been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is inconsistent or skeletal. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempts at sequencing, but the order or the relationship among ideas may occasionally be unclear. • a beginning and an ending which, although present, are either undeveloped or too obvious (e.g. “My topic is...”, “These are all the reasons that...”) • transitions that sometimes work. The same few transitional devices (e.g., coordinating conjunctions, numbering, etc.) may be overused. • a structure that is skeletal or too rigid. • placement of details that may not always be effective. • organization which lapses in some places, but helps the reader in others. 	<p>2</p> <p>The writing lacks a clear organizational structure. An occasional organizational device is discernible; however, the writing is either difficult to follow and the reader has to reread substantial portions, or the piece is simply too short to demonstrate organizational skills. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some attempts at sequencing, but the order or the relationship among ideas is frequently unclear. • a missing or extremely undeveloped beginning, body, and/or ending. • a lack of transitions, or when present, ineffective or overused. • a lack of an effective organizational structure. • details that seem to be randomly placed, leaving the reader frequently confused. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed. Even after rereading, the reader remains confused. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a lack of effective sequencing. • a failure to provide an identifiable beginning, body and/or ending. • a lack of transitions. • pacing that is consistently awkward; the reader feels either mired down in trivia or rushed along too rapidly. • a lack of organization which ultimately obscures or distorts the main point.

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Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

I AM glad people was pecking me
for class president. That made me feel
like we was family and. IF I get chosen
I GONING to be good And Nice
and MANKASH to every one even when I'm Home
I going to help around the house more

Score point 1 -- The writing lacks coherence. There is no identifiable beginning, body, or ending. Organization is haphazard.

Grade 8 Writing Organization – Score Point 2

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

if I run for class President I will raise
much money as I can we will do everything
to raise money have candy sale, donuts sale,
and I will raise money for more field. going
to Iceskate, and to see ASU the school
and to the mueseum, to the zoo and other
stuff and try to get us some Soda machine
and have dance on every hoilday every
single hoilday, and on some hoilday's have
fun day were we will play all day have slip and
slide game.

Score point 2 -- The writing lacks a clear organizational structure. There is an extremely underdeveloped beginning and a missing ending. The piece is simply too short to demonstrate organizational skills.

Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

As class president I will do at least one of the things I am about to state. I will keep the room clean, so you will have a clean place to do your school work at.

2nd thing, I will try to get is snack time. So you can eat snacks, so you won't be hungry.

3rd, I will try to get is to have less test. So you will get a better grade if you freeze on test or you just don't study.

4th, I will try to talk to the principal of the school about less days of school. So you can have fun with your friends more.

5th, I will try to do is to

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Go On 

Writing

FINAL COPY

talk to the teacher about more freetime
in class so you will have less schoolwork.

6th, i will try to do is to get more
free time during lunch so you can have
more time to eat and hang out with friends

And this is why you should
vote for me as class president of
the school.

Score point 3 -- Attempts have been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is skeletal. Beginning and ending are underdeveloped. The same few organizational devices (1st - 6th) are overused.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

Being the President of the United States is a very difficult job, but isn't class president a challenge also. Well, I am willing to accept the challenge and become your class president.

A good president needs to show many qualities that assures everyone that the job will be done. The first characteristic that I possess is leadership. Isn't leadership an important quality to have because I am trying to be the "leader" of the class. I have never before run for any type of office, but I show leadership everyday. If there is a problem I take a stand and try to fix it. During my after school activities I am a leader because I help motivate the team and lead it to victory. Leadership is an important part of being president.

Other attributes that I show are organization and I am smart. Everything needs to be in order. I always keep my room clean and everything is in its place. I am also very organized at school. A teacher once told me that I will have a successful year because in my world

Writing**FINAL COPY**

everything is black and white. My interpretation of what she had said is that to me everything needs to be neat and orderly, which is true. I am awarded excellent grades in school, sure sometimes I struggle, but I'm only human. I believe that I have the common sense and brains that you need to be president.

Last but not least I will include you in my decisions. Most presidents make choices based on what they want, but I won't. I want to hear what you have to say. You should make the decisions and I will just use my skills and try to make sure that you feel light hearted.

All in all, I think I would make an excellent president. I have many qualities a leader should show, now I just need you to have faith in me. I can overcome the challenge.

Score point 4 -- Organization is clear and coherent. Order and structure are present but seems formulaic. The paper has a recognizable beginning, a body that is easy to follow, and a developed conclusion. Formulaic transitions such as “Last but not least...” and “All in all...” detract from the organization.



Writing

DIRECTIONS: Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

FINAL COPY

School, a six letter word that a lot of people hate to hear. Is it because we spend a good seven and half hours there or is it because they hate the environment they work in? I would like to run for class president, so that I can correct these issues you have.

I know that being a class president has a lot of responsibility; those two words pretty much go hand-in-hand, but also you have to not be pressured by peers, or getting hammered with questions. You have to know how to keep your cool when under pressure. I can handle hard situations, and I think I can bring a lot of creative input to the student government.

The backbone of my presidency will be the people. This government will be a direct democracy; the people will help me run my terms. The people will let me know the issues I need to take care of. They are my voice, no matter what race, gender, or age they are allowed to talk to me about: wants, needs, or anything they please.

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Go On 

Writing

FINAL COPY

If I am elected class president I will make sure that the 7 hours, or 8 hours, or however long you're here; I'll make sure that those'll be the best few hours you have. I'll make sure that your school environment is safe and you'll feel that your learning something, no matter what it is. Elect me as your class president so you can have your problems corrected.

Score point 5 -- The order and structure move the reader through the text. The writing is characterized by effective sequencing and organization that fits the topic. Effective and creative transitions emerge: "The backbone of my presidency will be the people. This government will be a direct democracy; the people will help me run my terms." An inviting beginning draws the reader in. There is a satisfying sense of closure. Details fit where placed



Writing**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Good Afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! My name is _____ and I am _____ in the running for student-body president. This school is an abundance of education and learning. I'm here today to help govern this school to the best of my ability. Our faculty and staff have already done an excellent job, but I'm here just to add to wealth and make this school the best it can possibly be.

My school means everything to me. If I am elected school president, any problems or concerns will be dealt with right up front with no one else but me. From there I will make my best effort to notify someone who will help the situation, whatever it may be. Furthermore, if anyone has any private concerns, family problems, intentions, whatever, I'll keep it very confidential. I assure you, anything can be layed to rest if only you tell me about it.

On a lighter note, I have always been involved in after school activities ranging from Advanced Boys Choir to sports programs. I also perform service hours with the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) as means to better the world we live in. Succeeding and doing well in school has always been my top priority. I'm

Writing**FINAL COPY**

received high marks in my classes ever since I can remember. My love of education is very dear to me and I hope someday you might have it, too.

I put my right foot forward when saying I want this school to be the best of the best. Obviously, we cannot have perfume in the bathrooms, ladies, or McDonald's in the cafeteria, gentlemen. But we can at least have ^{mirrors} in our restrooms. With your help, I think we can get this and many other things accomplished.

The utmost concern I have is representing our school as it should be represented. If elected, I will attend every student council meeting flawlessly, unless extremely ill. Being punctual and not procrastinating would be another top priority this year. It would put our school in top form.

I have to say, there is a lot of good candidates this year. I wouldn't like to be in your shoes right now. It's a tough decision, but I guess I'll leave you with a prompt. Before you mark your vote, take a second to reflect on the speeches and the kind of people that each candidate is. Do you want someone who gets to class late, is careless and lazy? I don't think so, why not vote for someone who truly deserves it, someone who has ethics and integrity, someone like me? So remember vote for who has all of that and more!

Score point 6 -- The order and structure are compelling and move the reader through the text easily. The writer uses effective and creative sequencing: "Furthermore," "From there...", "On a lighter note...", and "I have to say..." The paper has a strong, inviting beginning that draws the reader in and a strong satisfying sense of closure.

